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PATENT

Docket No. 160383.90261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roussel

Appl. No.: ---

Filed: January 10, 2002

For: PRODUCT MADE OF ABSORBENT PAPER WITH AN
ASYMMETRIC STRUCTURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment in the patent application transmitted herewith prior to calculation of the filing fee.

Amendment

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2-14 as follows:

2. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grammages of the two plies differ by at least 5%.

3. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 2, wherein the grammages differ by 5 to 30%.

4. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein a grammage of the embossed ply is between 15 and 20 g/m² and a grammage of the unembossed ply is between 21 and 25 g/m².

5. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein a grammage of the embossed ply is between 21 and 25 g/m² and a grammage of the unembossed ply is between 15 and 20 g/m².

6. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fiber compositions differ so that one of the plies has greater resistance to tearing than the other.

7. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 6, wherein the embossed ply is stronger than the unembossed ply.

8. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the embossed ply has, over at least 30% and preferably at least 50% of the total area, at least 30 protrusions per cm².

9. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of protrusions is at least 50 per cm², and their area at the top is less than or equal to 0.4 mm².

10. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, the product having a second pattern of embossed protrusions between said portions of area.

11. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plies are associated with one another.

12. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plies are associated by connecting the distal surfaces of at least some of the protrusions of the embossed ply to said unembossed ply.

13. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 10, wherein the connection is obtained by bonding the protrusions of the second pattern, at least in part.

14. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 10, wherein said product comprises a second unembossed ply.

Remarks

Claims 2-14 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. The claims have also been amended to remove pronouns and provide terms having antecedent basis. The claims have also been amended to change the phrase "characterized in that" to "wherein."

In view of the Amendment, early favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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531 Rec'd PCT/... 10 JAN 2002

Amended Claims with Changes Marked

2. (Amended) The product as claimed in [the preceding] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the grammages of the two plies differ by at least 5%.

3. (Amended) The product as claimed in [the preceding] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the grammages differ by 5 to 30%.

4. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein a [the] grammage of the embossed ply is between 15 and 20 g/m² and [that] a grammage of the unembossed ply is between 21 and 25 g/m².

5. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein a [the] grammage of the embossed ply is between 21 and 25 g/m² and [that the] a grammage of the unembossed ply is between 15 and 20 g/m².

6. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the fiber compositions differ so that one of the plies has greater resistance to tearing than the other.

7. (Amended) The product as claimed in claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein [the strongest ply is] the embossed ply is stronger than the unembossed ply.

8. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the embossed ply has, over at least 30% and preferably at least 50% of the total area, at least 30 protrusions per cm².

9. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the number of protrusions is at least 50 per cm², and their area at the top is less than or equal to 0.4 mm².

10. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that it has] the product having a second pattern of embossed protrusions between said portions of area.

11. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the plies are associated with one another.

12. (Amended) The product as claimed in [the preceding claim] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the plies are associated by connecting the distal surfaces of at least some of the protrusions of the embossed ply to said unembossed ply.

13. (Amended) The product as claimed in [claims 10 and 12] claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein the connection is obtained by bonding the protrusions of the second pattern, at least in part.

14. (Amended) The product as claimed in [one of claims 10 to 13] claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein said product [it] comprises a second unembossed ply.